

While there is no current, nationwide shortage of blood, regional and local shortages do occur. It is not hard to imagine that a major national trauma, such as a terrorist attack, disease, or natural disaster, could strain the blood supply even further. Since blood cannot be manufactured, the system is reliant on people to donate their blood.

Mr. Speaker, donating blood is a small but entirely selfless act that does nothing but help those who need it most. Congress should support this endeavor, and encourage people to give blood as often as they can.

This legislation provides a \$50 tax deduction for individuals who donate blood, with a maximum deduction of \$150 a year. This maximum reflects the advice of blood bank centers and institutions that encourage people to give blood three times a year. This relief is a small reward for people who do give, and an encouragement for those who might need that extra little push to attend a blood drive.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and call on the House to bring it expeditiously to the floor.

HONORING DENNIS CONNER, A WORLD-RENOWNED SAILOR, ON HIS RESTORATION OF THE LEGENDARY YACHT "COTTON BLOSSOM II"

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound pleasure that I rise to commend to the Nation Dennis Conner, of America's Cup fame, an outstanding American yachtsman, competitor and sailing icon, in admiration and appreciation of his magnificent restoration of the historic wooden yacht *Cotton Blossom II*. Mr. Conner's expertise and dedication to preserving yachting history are to be commended. His extraordinary efforts are a testament to his uncompromising devotion to excellence and authenticity.

Thanks to Dennis Conner's vision and generosity, *Cotton Blossom II* is an elegantly restored masterpiece that honors our country's rich yachting heritage and the classic art of wooden boat building.

Cotton Blossom II was designed in 1924 by Johan Anker, the leading "Q" Boat designer of the time. She was built for Lawrence Percival of Boston at the Jensen Shipyard near Oslo, Norway. *Leonore*, as she was first named, was delivered to Marblehead in October 1925. She was later sold to Walter Wheeler and christened *Cotton Blossom II*. Wheeler campaigned her with great success out of Stamford, CT. Among her many racing victories were the Vineyard Race and the Astor Cup for the New York Yacht Club. She was named the NYYC Boat of the Year in 1939, and her half model is displayed in the Club's Model Room.

Twenty-three years later, this well-designed yacht continued to win major races under the stewardship of owners Ed and Gloria Turner of the San Diego Yacht Club. *Cotton Blossom II* successfully spanned the dramatic changes that had taken place in the sport since the 1920s as she became a familiar sight winning all the major races at the club, including the Lipton Trophy, and was named SDYC Boat of

the Year in 1963. Her half model is displayed in the club today.

As a young man and rising star in the sailing world, Dennis Conner sailed extensively on *Cotton Blossom II*. When he had the good fortune of acquiring *Cotton Blossom II*, Mr. Conner assembled a team of the finest craftsmen and shipbuilders to restore her with meticulous care to her original condition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the People's House join me in commending Dennis Conner and his talented team of skilled craftsmen for preserving U.S. maritime history with the restoration of the legendary wooden yacht *Cotton Blossom II*.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR HAROLD L. CASKEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, a long and distinguished career in public service is coming to an end in the Show-Me State. Missouri State Senator Harold L. Caskey will retire at the end of the year. He has served the people of the 31st District since 1976.

He was born in Bates County. After graduating from Central Missouri State University with honors in 1960 with a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology, he attended University of Missouri-Columbia where he received a Juris Doctorate in 1963. He also was a member of the Order of the Coif.

From 1968 to 1972, Mr. Caskey served as the prosecuting attorney for Bates County. Then he was the Butler city prosecutor from 1973 to 1974. After serving in this position, he was an assistant professor in Business Law and Criminal Law at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University, from 1975 to 1976.

Mr. Caskey was first elected to the Missouri Senate in 1976. During his accomplished tenure in the Missouri Senate, he served in many positions. He was the Senate Assistant Majority Floor Leader, Senate Majority Caucus Chair, Senate Majority Floor Leader, and Minority Caucus Chair.

Mr. Caskey awards and honors include the 2002 Access Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, the 1997 National Legislator of the Year from the National Industries of the Blind Workshop, the 1999 University of Missouri School of Law Alumnus of the Year and the National Freedom Righter from the National Rifle Association. Additionally, the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association named an award for him—the Harold Caskey Freedom Award.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of this House will join me in thanking Mr. Caskey for his life of public service.

HONORING THE SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend George Lardas, members of the congregation, and the Stratford, CT, community in extending my sincere congratulations to the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church as they celebrate its 75th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and I am proud to help them celebrate this momentous occasion.

The St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church was founded in 1929 by Russian emigres who came to Stratford to work for Igor Sikorsky. The legendary Igor Sikorsky, the father of the modern helicopter, was a founding member of the church as well as one of its staunchest supporters throughout his life. With nearly all the members employees of Sikorsky's company, a Russian community quickly grew around the church. Soon, what began as a neighborhood church in a Lake Street home moved to its present location and today welcomes congregants from several surrounding communities as well. The striking golden cupolas of the church, a unique characteristic of the building, along with the warm and welcoming arms of the congregation have made St. Nicholas a lasting landmark in Stratford.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening our bonds of faith, St. Nicholas gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of St. Nicholas' have also given much to the town of Stratford. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community.

It is with great pride and my heart-felt congratulations that I rise today to join with the congregation and the Stratford community in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church—a true community treasure.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to submit into the RECORD additional material regarding the debate about whether marriage is in decline in the Netherlands. Some members suggest that the Stanley Kurtz material is not relevant or is not accurate. I submit into the RECORD the following article written by Mr. Kurtz that addresses his critics on this point.

DUTCH DEBATE

There's a new development in the story of Europe's marriage meltdown. Recently, a